

INDEXED

Classified on 12.1.35

File No. 10/37/62

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

CABINET SECRETARIAT

(CABINET SECTION)

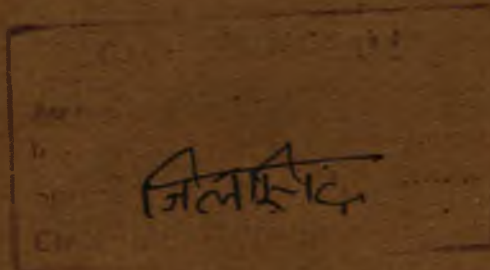
C. No. 18238

Deputation of Sarvashree Shah Nawaz Khan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways, Suresh Chandra Bose and R.K. Mitra, Joint Secretary, West Bengal Government, to Japan, Indo-China (Saigon), Malaya and Thailand to make investigation into the circumstances relating to the death of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose.



Keep

25/04/16



Let

10/24/41-6P

Retained

~~RECORDED~~ B

PP 1-24/14

PP 1-32/14

282

5-4-71 Summary

5-4-71

SECRET

CORRESPONDENCE

Reference summary from the Ministry of
 External Affairs, placed below. As the
 clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs
 have not been incorporated in the summary
 in respect of non official members of the
 delegation, we may request the Ministry of
 External Affairs to obtain the clearance
 from the Ministry of Home Affairs before the
 summary is submitted to the Cabinet.
 Draft memo put up for approval.

D. C. A.

29
9/1/56.

ms
9/1

us/19

ASLent
10.1.56

~~Adm~~

J.S.

Sam
19.

Recommendation to P.M.
 with J.S. (B.M. has seen)

M.
19/1/56.

Serial No. 1. (9282) p. 1

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SUMMARY FOR CABINET

Subject:- Deputation to Japan, Indo-China (Saigon), Malaya (Singapore) and Thailand (Bangkok) of a Committee of three persons to make investigation into the circumstances leading to the death of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose.

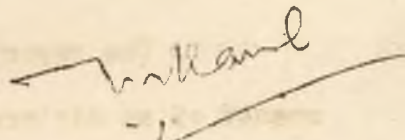
Pl. Subhash Chandra Bose's death was not believed to be absolutely true by a section of the public. Shri S.A. Aiyer, formerly a Minister in the Azad Hind Government, visited Japan some time in May 1951 and verified the story of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose's death. He submitted a detailed report of his enquiry to the Prime Minister with photographs and some documents signed by some Japanese people.

the
In reply to a question in Parliament a resume of this report was placed on the Table of the House on the 5th March 1952. Government believe that this report of Shri S.A. Aiyer is a fairly convincing account and proof of Shri Bose's death.

However, a certain section of the people as well as a few Members of Parliament continue to express doubt about the truth of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose's death as well as of the genuineness of the ashes lying in the Renkoji temple in Tokyo. Questions on this subject continue to be asked in both Houses of the Parliament. Government therefore, propose to appoint a Committee of three persons who will visit Tokyo and other places relevant to the investigation and institute an enquiry into the circumstances of the death. The Committee will consist of Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, late Subhash Chandra Bose's brother, (subject to his acceptance) and a senior official of the West Bengal Government. The Committee will visit Tokyo, Singapore, Saigon and Bangkok. It is estimated

3-2-
that the Committee will require about 5 weeks to complete the enquiry. The expenditure is expected to be about Rs.18,000/-.

The Minister for External Affairs has approved the proposal. The Ministry of Finance has also concurred. Approval of the Cabinet is now solicited.



(T.N. KAUL)
JOINT SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Cabinet Secretariat (with 35 spare copies) Shri K. Rangaiah Joint Secy.
Min. of E.A. U.O. No.D.6108-FEA/55 Dated 7 January, 1956.

SCM/0701.

Draft Summary of the Cabinet.

Subject:- Deputation to Japan, Indo-China (Saigon), Malaya (Singapore) and Thailand (Bangkok) of a Committee of three persons to make investigation into the circumstances leading to the death of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose.

The report that Shri Subhash Chandra Bose died as a result of an air crash near Taihoku (Formosa) on the 18th August 1945 was not believed to be absolutely true by a section of the public. Shri S.A. Aiyer, formerly a Minister in the Azad Hind Government, visited Japan some time in May 1951 and verified the story of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose's death. He submitted a detailed report of his enquiry to the Prime Minister with photographs and some documents signed by some Japanese people.

In reply to a question in Parliament a resume of this report was placed on the Table of the House on the 5th March 1952. Government believe that this report of Shri S.A. Aiyer is a fairly convincing account and proof of Shri Bose's death.

However, a certain section of the people as well as a few Members of Parliament continue to express doubt about the truth of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose's death as well as of the genuineness of the ashes lying in the Renkoji temple in Tokyo. Questions on this subject continue to be asked in both Houses of the Parliament. Government, therefore, propose to appoint a Committee of three persons who will visit Tokyo and other places relevant to the investigation and institute an enquiry into the circumstances of the death. The Committee will consist of Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, brother of the late Shri Subhash Chandra Bose, and Shri R.K. Mitra, Home Secretary, West Bengal Government. Shri Suresh Chandra Bose has agreed to serve on the Committee and the Chief Minister of West Bengal has agreed to lend the services of

18. 1. 56.

Serial No. 2. (Sess.)

- 5 -

Shri R.K.Mitra. It is estimated that the Committee will require about 5 weeks to complete the enquiry. The expenditure is expected to be about Rs.18,000/-.

The Minister for External Affairs has approved the proposal. The Ministries of Finance and Home Affairs have also concurred. Approval of the Cabinet is now solicited.

(T.N.Kaul)
Joint Secretary to the Government
of India.

Cabinet Secn. [Shri A.S.Gill] with 35 spare copies

Ministry of E.A. u.o.No.D. 154-FA/56 dated 16.1.56

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CABINET SECRETARIAT

SUBJECT:- Deputation to Japan, Indo-China(Saigon), Malaya (Singapore) and Thailand (Bangkok) of a Committee of three persons to make investigation into the circumstances leading to the death of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose.

The Prime Minister may be pleased to direct circulation of the External Affairs Ministry's summary, placed below, to Members of the Cabinet for an expression of opinion.

Sanjay

Sanjay
17/1/56

Y. K. Kaul
17/1/56

P. D.

J. Nehru
17/1

PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT

I agree to this. But I am not at all sure that Shri Suresh Chandra Bose has agreed to serve on the Committee. Dr. B.C. Roy casually mentioned to me the other day that he had not been able to meet him. You might make sure of this. This paper however can be circulated to the Cabinet.

J. Nehru

(J. Nehru)
17-1-1956

Cabinet Secretary.
No.128-PMH/56.

The paper may be circulated as directed by P.M. In the meantime, E.A. Ministry (Shri T.N. Kaul) may be requested to confirm that Shri Suresh Chandra Bose has agreed to serve on the Committee, in view of P.M.'s information that Dr. B.C. Roy had not been able to meet him.

Y. K. Kaul

18. 1. 56.

Serial No. 2. (issue) 10/2-4

JS.

*Cable Sec H. U.O.
No. 304/CS/56,
dt. 17.1.56.*

*P. Circulate and
then let me
have this paper
18/1/56
18/1/56
18/1/56*

7 / Serial No. 2. pp 5-6

I place below a copy of a letter
which Shri Suresh Chandra Bose has
written to Maj. General Shah Nawaz
for which it will be seen that
Shri Suresh Chandra Bose has
agreed to serve on his Committee

Bram
20/1

Scunbury

Sec. Comm. I have kept PD. insured

T. S. S.

20/1/56

J.S.

Bram
20/1

u/ccl

Cal. Br
488
2/1

12/1/11

-8-

CABINET SECRETARIAT.

P.M. had recently expressed some doubt as to whether Shri Suresh Chandra Bose had agreed to serve on the Committee appointed to make investigation into the circumstances leading to the death of his brother, Shri Subhas Chandra Bose. P.M. will be interested to know that Shri Suresh Chandra Bose has conveyed in writing to Shri Shah Nawaz, who is going to be the Chairman of the Committee, his consent to serve on the Committee. Copy of Shri Suresh Chandra Bose's letter is placed below.

P.M.

sd.
(Y.N. Sukthankar).
20.1.56.

Cab. Sectt. U.O.
No. CSR/17/56,
dt. 20.1.56.

sd. *[Signature]*
20/1/56.

I should like to mention this to P.M.
to-morrow morning. Please put up letter.

sd. Y. N. Sukthankar
6/2/56.

P.M.

Reference notes on page 6/N. 9

The time limit accorded to Members of the Cabinet for recording their comments on this case has expired. As no comments have been received, the Prime Minister's final approval may be communicated to all concerned as in the draft memo. put up for approval.

A memo. to the Ministry of E.A. is also put up for signature, if approved.

X.D.C.A.

V.S. for sig

lls
27/1/56.

ms
27/1

u s / es has signed the memo and approved the draft

ms
27/1

Serial No. 4. (Issue) p 7
cor

Serial No. 5. (Issue) p 8
cor

Serial No. 6. (F.R.) p 9
cor

I should like to mention this to P.M. to-morrow morning, please put up then.

col Y. N. Sukthankar

6/2/56.

P.S.

Serial No. 7. (Issue) p 10
cor

-10 -
CABINET SECTION

U.S.(C) may please see the Ministry of External Affairs' memorandum placed below with which a draft summary has been enclosed for approval of the Cabinet.

2. It is not quite clear either from the covering memorandum or from the summary for the Cabinet what exactly is the purpose of the present paper for the Cabinet. The Cabinet has approved the deputation to Japan, Indo-China etc. of a Committee of three persons to make investigation into the circumstances leading to the death of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose. If any changes are anticipated or proposed to be made in the composition of the delegation, its itinerary or the expenditure involved, ~~in~~ the matter has to be brought to the notice of the Cabinet in a form depending on the nature of the changes anticipated or proposed to be made.

3. Under the existing instructions approval of the Cabinet is not necessary for setting up a local Committee or to expenses incurred on its functioning in the country itself. This is a matter which is essentially for the administrative Ministry to settle in consultation with their accredited finance.

4. If approved, this may be explained to the Ministry of External Affairs and their note returned to them for resubmission if necessary.

~~U.S.~~
10/4
~~U.S.(C)~~
I place below a draft D.O. to
Shri T.N. Kaul, Jr Secy. EA. returning the
copies of the summary.

AGL:ii
12.4.56

M/2
12/4/56

AGL:ii
12.4.56

Serial No 5 (9546) p/11
cor

Cal. Mr

8 - 11 -
IMMEDIATE.

No.F.30(26)-FE4/55.
Government of India.
Ministry of External Affairs.

New Delhi, the 9/4 April, 1956.

M E M O R A N D U M .

Subject:- Deputation of Sarvashree Shah Nawaz Khan, Suresh Chandra Bose and R.K. Mitra to Japan, Indo-China (Saigon), Malaya and Thailand to make investigation into the circumstances leading to the death of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose.

...oOo...

The undersigned is directed to invite a reference to the Cabinet Secretariat Memo. No.10/CF/56, dated the 27th January 1956 conveying Cabinet's approval to the appointment of a three men Committee to investigate into the circumstances leading to the death of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose and to an expenditure of Rs: 18,000/- therefor. Since then some changes have taken place and the expenditure estimated initially is now expected to increase by Rs: 9,500/- as detailed in the note placed below. Ministry of Finance have accorded their concurrence to the estimated increase in expenditure of Rs: 9,500/-.

The Committee has already started its work with effect from 29-3-56 and some of the witnesses have already arrived to give evidence. The members of the committee and the witnesses are pressing for money to meet their expenses here. In view of this difficulty and as it will take some time before the Cabinet's approval is obtained for these changes and increased expenditure, this Ministry are issuing sanction regarding the terms of D.4. and T.4. in anticipation of the Cabinets' ex-post-facto approval.

Contd..... 2

12
- : 2 : -

Requisite number (35) of copies of the summary
to the Cabinet are forwarded herewith for
necessary action.


(T.N. KAUL)
JOINT SECRETARY (E).

The Cabinet Secretariat,
NEW DELHI.

Jaswant 7/4*

- 13 -

Government of India
Ministry of External Affairs.

..

Draft Summary to the Cabinet.

Subject:- Deputation to Japan, Indo-China (Saigon), Malaya (Singapore) and Thailand (Bangkok) of a Committee of three persons to make investigation into the circumstances leading to the death of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose.

Approval of the Cabinet to the note placed below was conveyed in the Cabinet Secretariat Memorandum No. 10/CF/56 dated 27.1.1956 in connection with the appointment of the Committee to investigate into the circumstances leading to the death of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose.

2. Since then the following changes have taken place:

(a) The services of Shri R.K.Mitra, Home Secretary, West Bengal Government could not be made available for working on the Committee. In his place, the services of Shri S.N.Maitra, I.C.S., Chief Commissioner, Andamans have been received.

(b) It has been felt necessary that the Chairman of the Committee should be provided with a Personal Assistant. He will function as the Personal Assistant, Stenographer and Keeper of the Committee's records and papers.

(c) While working as Chairman of the Railway Accidents Enquiry Committee, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan was sanctioned a daily allowance of Rs. 20/- per day while he was in Delhi during the Parliament Session and Rs. 20/- per day extra if he went out of Delhi on tour during the Parliament Session for the work of the Railway Accidents Enquiry Committee. As he will now be working as Chairman of the Investigation Committee during the Parliament Session, it is proposed that Shri Shah Nawaz Khan may be given the same daily allowance as stated above, namely,

Contd/.....

Rs. 20/- per day during the Parliament Session when he is in Delhi and a sum of Rs. 20/- per day extra if he goes out of Delhi on tour in India during the Parliament Session.

(d) The Committee will have to examine a number of witnesses from India and Pakistan in connection with their investigation. Such witnesses should be given travelling allowances. An amount of Rs. 3,000/- has been estimated for the purpose.

(e) It has also been found ~~necessary~~ in consideration of the present financial position of Shri Suresh Chandre Bose, the Non-official member of the Committee, that he should be given a compensatory allowance of Rs. 30/- per diem for the period he is a member of the Committee for meeting his commitments in India while he serves on this Committee, in addition to D.A. and T.A. admissible to Class I Officers.

3. The additional expenditure on these accounts is estimated to be as follows:

- (i) D.A. to Shri Shah Nawaz Khan
@ Rs.20/- per day for five weeks.....Rs. 700/-
 - (ii) Cost of Travelling allowances
for witnesses.....Rs.3,000/-
 - (iii) Compensatory allowance to Shri
Suresh Chandra Bose.....Rs.1,050/-
at Rs.30/- per day(for five weeks)
 - (iv) Air passage for the P.A.
(Tourist Class).....Rs.3,000/-
 - (v) D.A. to the P.A.(Ad-hoc).....Rs.1,500/-
-
- Rs.9,250/-

Say.....Rs.9,500/-

4. The Cabinet has already accorded their approval to the expenditure of Rs. 18,000/-. Their approval is now required for an additional estimated expenditure of Rs. 9,500/-. The total expenditure in that case will come to Rs. 27,500/-.

5. The Minister for External Affairs has approved the proposal. The Ministry of Finance have also concurred. Approval of the Cabinet is now solicited.

Enclaves to summary
-15-
Government of India,
Ministry of External Affairs.

.....
Draft Summary of the Cabinet.

Subject: Deputation to Japan, Indo-China (Saigon),
Malaya (Singapore and Thailand (Bangkok))
of a Committee of three persons to
make investigation into the circumstances
leading to the death of Shri Subhash
Chandra Bose.

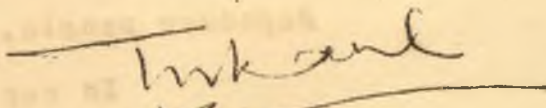
The report that Shri Subhash Chandra
Bose died as a result of an air crash near
Taihoku (Formosa) on the 18th August, 1945 was
not believed to be absolutely true by a section
of the public. Shri S.A. Aiyer, formerly a Minister
in the Azad Hind Government, visited Japan some
time in May 1951 and verified the story of
Shri Subhash Chandra Bose's death. He submitted
a detailed report of his enquiry to the Prime Minister
with photographs and some documents signed by some
Japanese people.

In reply to a question in Parliament
a resume of this report was placed on the Table
of the House on the 5th March 1952. Government
believe that this report of Shri S.A. Aiyer is
a fairly convincing account and proof of Shri Bose's
death.

me
9/4
However, a certain section of the people
as well as a few Members of Parliament continue to
express doubt about the truth of Shri Subhash
Chandra Bose's death as well as of the genuineness
of the ashes lying in the Renkoji temple in Tokyo.
Questions on this subject continue to be asked in
both Houses of the Parliament. Government,
therefore, propose to appoint a Committee of three
persons who will visit Tokyo and other places
P.T.O.

relevant to the investigation and institute an ^{alleged} enquiry into the circumstances of the death. The Committee will consist of Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, brother of the late Shri Subhash Chandra Bose, and Shri R.K. Mitra, Home Secretary, West Bengal Government. Shri Suresh Chandra Bose has agreed to serve on the Committee and the Chief Minister of West Bengal has agreed to lend the services of Shri R.K. Mitra. It is estimated that the Committee will require about 5 weeks to complete the enquiry. The expenditure is expected to be about Rs.18,000/-.

The Minister for External Affairs has approved the proposal. The Ministries of Finance and Home Affairs have also concurred. Approval of the Cabinet is now solicited.


(T.N. Kaul)
Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

Encl: nil.

Jolly.16.1/

Serial No. 9 (F.R.)

A recommendation to the Prime Minister is put up.

Ms
27/4/56

US/CC.

The Cabinet has already approved the main proposal. This summary is about the change in the composition of the Committee and increase in estimated expenditure on its deputation. It will be sufficient if it is circulated to Members of the Cabinet for information after P.M. has approved. Recommendation to P.M. placed below.

ASG:ii
27.4.56

I.S.

MS

28/4/56

Secy

ASG:ii
29.4.56

Y. S. Chatterjee
29/4/56

Cal. Prov

Serial No. (C.S.) 13-17
C.S.


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CABINET SECRETARIAT

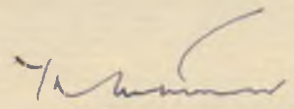
Subject:- Changes in the composition of a Committee going to Japan, Indo-China, Thailand to investigate into the circumstances leading to the alleged death of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose.

- - -

The Prime Minister may be pleased to accord his approval to the proposal contained in the Ministry of External Affairs' summary placed below. Thereafter, it will be circulated to the Members of the Cabinet for information.


(P.A. Gopalkrishnan)
28. 4. 1956

Secretary


29/4/56

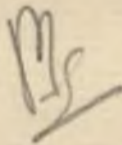
ah. Secy. U.O.
No. 1630/CS/56,
dt 29.4.56

P.A. Gopalkrishnan
29/4

Sub Cabinet Secretariat (Shri P.A. Gopalkrishnan)

30/4 PM's Secy U.O. No. 5291 dt 30/4/56

8470 1361 P.A. Gopalkrishnan
30/4


30/4

(U.S.C.)

APG
30/4

Calc. Pr

30/4
U.S.C.

Calc. Pr

APG
30.4.56

Draft memo. is put up for approval.

Serial No. 10 (Issue) / pp 13-17
Cov

CABINET SECRETARIAT

Subject:- Deputation to Japan, Indo-China, Thailand
of a Committee to make investigation into
the alleged death of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose

The Prime Minister may be pleased to direct circulation
of the External Affairs Ministry's note, placed below, to
Members of the Cabinet for an expression of opinion.

P.A. Gopalkrishnan
12/6/56

(P.A. Gopalkrishnan)

Secretary

[Signature]
12-6-56

P.A. Gopalkrishnan
12/6

Cab. Secy. U.O.
No. 2937/CS/56,
dt. 12.6.56

Mr. [Signature]
13/6

Cabinet Secretaries (Mr. P.A. Gopalkrishnan)
M's Secy No. d/s-7598 dt 13-6-56

24 No. 2028 M.P. 56
13/6

[Signature]
13/6
h s (c)

AGG
13.6.56

Draft memo put up for approval.

Cab. Secy

es
13/6
us (c)

Cab. Secy

AGG
13/6

Serial No 11 (Issue) 18-19
cor

From prepage.

The time limit accorded to members of the Cabinet for recording their comments on this case has expired. As no comments have been received, the Prime Minister's final approval may be communicated to all concerned as in the draft put up for approval.

X D.F.A.

A memo, to the Ministry of External Affairs is also put up for signature, if approved.

✓ S/ + vrsd

M.
28/6/57. M.
29/6
US(c)

ASLm
20.6.56

Cal Br

Serial No. 12. (Issue) | p20
cor

Serial No. 13. (Issue) | p21
cor

-21-

PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT

I understand that External Affairs Ministry have sent you the printed report of the Netaji Enquiry Committee. Also, a summary for the Cabinet. I should like you to include this in the agenda for the Cabinet meeting on Sunday next, 9th September.

2. That meeting has been especially convened to consider the question of rise in prices and I do not wish other matters to be included in the agenda. But, this report will not take up much of the time of the Cabinet and I have to take their directions about placing it before Parliament.

J. Nehru

(J. Nehru)
7. 9. 1956

Cabinet Secretary.
No. 2107-PMH/56.

Y. B. Chavan

877152

PKR

879/56

AGM
8.9.56 *HS (C)*

Cal. Pr

Serial no. 14 (18th issue) pp. 22-27
S.No 15 (Issue) pp. 28-30
Cor.

The Private Secretary to the Finance Minister has written to say that the Finance Minister desires that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting recorded in Case No.239/52/56 - Recent trends in prices - should be slightly amended. The amendment suggested is indicated at 'A' on page 3 of the copy of the minutes placed below.

Sd/- A.S. Gill
12.9.56.

J.S.

Sd/- P.A. Gopalkrishnan.
12.9.1956.

Secretary.

CABINET SECRETARIAT

The portion in para 3 of the Minutes, which Finance Minister, wants to see amended, was dictated to me by Prime Minister. I, however, see no objection to accepting the amendment suggested by the Finance Minister. In co-ordinating the data and reporting the same to Government, it should be open to the Central Statistical Organisation to give its views if necessary. Also all this material would be available to Professor Mahalanobis, who, in his capacity of Honorary Statistical Adviser to the Cabinet, would furnish the Government with his views and interpretation of the statistical data. I would, therefore, recommend that the amendment suggested by the Finance Minister may be accepted.

Sd/- Y.N. Sukthankar
13.9.56.

P.M.

I am unable to understand any great difference between the proposed change and the original draft. In any statistical organisation, it collates and coordinates data, interprets that data.....2

data and does not merely supply a set of figures. It is not a question of views (perhaps the word 'views' was wrongly used), but of a coordinated picture to which attention is drawn.

I think that you might change "submit its views" to "submit reports on them". I take it this will meet the Finance Minister's point.

Sd/- J. Nehru
13.9.56.

Cabinet Secretary
No. 2174-PMH/56.

Please let me see the letter from P.S. to F.M.

Sd/- Y.N. Sukthankar
14.9.56

J/S.

Sd/- P.A. Gopalkrishnan.
14.9.56.

P.S.(C)

The letter referred to is placed below.

Sd/- A.S. Gill
14.9.56.

J/S.

Sd/- P.A. Gopalkrishnan
14.9.56.

Secretary.

Seen. The proposed change should be acceptable to F.M. Will J.S. kindly advise P.S. to F.M. of what we propose to do to finalise the minutes?

Sd/- Y.N. Sukthankar
16.9.56.

J.S.

* SHARMA*
20.9.56

J.S. handed this over to me. I have checked up with the Private Secretary to the Finance Minister. The amendment suggested by the Prime Minister is acceptable to the Finance Minister. The minutes may now be finalised. I have kept J.S. informed.

Sd/- A.S. Gill
17-9-56.

Cabinet Branch.

Draft memo. finalising the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 9th September, 1956, is placed below for approval.

Intd.
P.R.G.
S.R.

17 - 9 - 56

U.S.(C)

Sd/- A.S. Gill
17-9-56.

Cabinet Branch

Serial No. 16 (Issue) pp 31-32

CORRESPONDENCE

(A.S.Gill)
Under Secretary to the Cabinet.

To

The Ministry of External Affairs
(Shri T.N.Kaul)

Encl
10/1

Serial No. 1 -1-

Dy.No.68/CS/56
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CABINET SECRETARIAT

. . .

New Delhi, the 10th January, 1956.

. . .

Subject:-Deputation to Japan, Indo-China(Saigon),
Malaya (Singapore) and Thailand (Bangkok)
of a Committee of three persons to make
investigations into the circumstances
leading to the death of Shri Subhash
Chandra Bose.

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PP N

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Ministry of External Affairs' summary for the Cabinet on the subject noted above and to say that a clearance from Ministry of Home Affairs would be necessary in terms of sub-para (7) of para 2 of this Secretariat Memo.No.145/CF/52, dated the 22nd May, 1953, for the inclusion of Shri Suresh Chander Bose who is a non-official in the delegation. Ministry of External Affairs is accordingly requested to obtain the concurrence of the Ministry of Home Affairs and incorporate the fact in the summary. The Ministry of External Affairs is also requested to mention it in the summary whether Shri Suresh Chander Bose has agreed to join the Committee. It is not sufficient for the purposes of a summary for the Cabinet that Shri Bose would be included in the Committee subject to his acceptance.

Thirty four copies of their summary are accordingly returned herewith for resubmission on the lines indicated above.

A.S.Gill
10.1.56
(A.S.Gill)

Under Secretary to the Cabinet.

To

The Ministry of External Affairs
(Shri T.N.Kaul)

Lrwd
As
10/1

Serial No. 2.

SECRET

No. 10/CF/56.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CABINET SECRETARIAT

New Delhi, the 19th January, 1956.

Under sub-rule 1(a) of Rule III of the Rules of Procedure the undersigned is directed to circulate to Members of the Cabinet, for an expression of opinion, the attached summary from the Ministry of External Affairs regarding the deputation of *JP 24*
cor
Sarvashri Shah Nawaz Khan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways, Suresh Chandra Bose, and R.K. Mitra, Home Secretary, West Bengal Government, to Japan, Indo-China (Saigon), Malaya and Thailand to make investigation into the circumstances leading to the death of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose.

If no comments are received by 10 A.M. on Friday, the 27th January, 1956, it will be assumed that Members of the Cabinet approve the proposal contained in the summary.

AS Gill

(A.S. Gill)
for Secretary to the Cabinet.

To

All Members of the Cabinet.

Copy with a copy of the enclosure forwarded to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, for information.

Copy with a copy of the enclosure forwarded to the Secretary to the President/the Private Secretary to the Vice-President/the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister/the Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, for information.

AS Gill

(A.S. Gill)
Under Secretary to the Cabinet.

"KSG"
35 copies.

Government of India,
Ministry of External Affairs.

Cabinet Document No.
OD- 42 /56
Copy No. 25

Summary of the Cabinet.

Subject: Deputation to Japan, Indo-China (Saigon), Malaya (Singapore and Thailand (Bangkok)) of a Committee of three persons to make investigation into the circumstances leading to the death of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose.

The report that Shri Subhash Chandra Bose died as a result of an air crash near Taihoku (Formosa) on the 18th August, 1945 was not believed to be absolutely true by a section of the public. Shri S.A. Aiyer, formerly a Minister in the Azad Hind Government, visited Japan some time in May 1951 and verified the story of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose's death. He submitted a detailed report of his enquiry to the Prime Minister with photographs and some documents signed by some Japanese people.

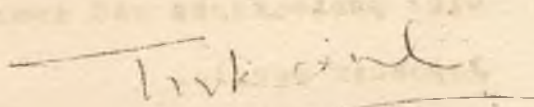
In reply to a question in Parliament a resume of this report was placed on the Table of the House on the 5th March 1952. Government believe that this report of Shri S.A. Aiyer is a fairly convincing account and proof of Shri Bose's death.

However, a certain section of the people as well as a few Members of Parliament continue to express doubt about the truth of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose's death as well as of the genuineness of the ashes lying in the Renkoji temple in Tokyo. Questions on this subject continue to be asked in both Houses of the Parliament. Government, therefore, propose to appoint a Committee of three persons who will visit Tokyo and other places

P.T.O.

relevant to the investigation and institute an enquiry into the circumstances of the alleged death. The Committee will consist of Shri. Shan Nawaz Khan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, brother of the late Shri Subhash Chandra Bose, and Shri R.K. Mitra, Home Secretary, West Bengal Government. Shri Suresh Chandra Bose has agreed to serve on the Committee and the Chief Minister of West Bengal has agreed to lend the services of Shri R.K. Mitra. It is estimated that the Committee will require about 5 weeks to complete the enquiry. The expenditure is expected to be about Rs.18,000/-.

The Minister for External Affairs has approved the proposal. The Ministries of Finance and Home Affairs have also concurred. Approval of the Cabinet is now solicited.


(T.N. Kaul)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

Encl: nil.

Jolly.16.1/



IMMEDIATE.

-5- No P-3. (16) P-2 A 755
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
NEW DELHI,

19th January, 1956.

Serial No. 3.

Dear Mr. Ram,

With reference to our note for the Cabinet on the Netaji Subash Chander Bose Enquiry Committee, you seem to have some doubt whether Mr. Suresh Chander Bose has conveyed his consent to serve on the Committee. I am sending you copy of a letter from Mr. Suresh Chander Bose to Major-General Shah Nawaz, who is going to be the Chairman of the Committee.

p 6/101 info

Yours sincerely,

A. J. Kidwai

(A. J. Kidwai)

Shri K. Ram,
Joint Secretary,
Cabinet Secretariat,
New Delhi.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to the President/the Private Secretary to the Vice-President/the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister/the Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, for information.

AS Gill

(A.S. Gill)
Under Secretary to the Cabinet.

ARORA
35 copies.

-6 -
Copy.

"Kamini Kuthir" Bhubaneswar
(Orissa),
7th December, 1955.

My dear Mr. Shah Nawaz Khan,

I am exceedingly sorry for not having replied to your letter earlier.

I had given you my word that I would be glad to be on the Committee and so was expecting confirmation of the same either from you or from some other source at Delhi.

In your letter to Shri Haridas Mitre, you expected me in Delhi during the present period. I am sorry I will be late by a few days, as the whole of this house is expected to be taken by some department of this Government for a fairly long period. As this will benefit me, I am remodelling this house so as to suit them well. My work here is almost finished and I wrote to Haridas yesterday that I could reach Calcutta on Sunday next, the 11th instant. I shall be in Calcutta for only 2 or 3 days and so expect to be in Delhi by the 16th or 17th instant. Please communicate this piece of news to Sheila and Pradip, as I am not writing to them about it.

I hope and trust all of you are doing well. I am well.

Yours very sincerely,

Suresh C. Bose.

Mr. Shah Nawaz Khan, M.P.,
New Delhi.

Serial No. 4
SECRET

COPY NO. 25

No. 10/CF/56.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CABINET SECRETARIAT

New Delhi, the 27th January, 1956.

With reference to this Secretariat memorandum of even number dated the 19th January, 1956, regarding the deputation of Sarvashri Shah Nawaz Khan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways, Suresh Chandra Bose and R.K. Mitra, Home Secretary, West Bengal Government, to Japan, Indo-China (Saigon), Malaya and Thailand to investigate into the circumstances leading to the death of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose, the undersigned is directed to inform Members of the Cabinet that the Prime Minister has been pleased to accord his approval to the proposal contained in the summary dated the 16th January, 1956, from the Ministry of External Affairs.

ASG
(A.S. Gill)
for Secretary to the Cabinet.

To

All Members of the Cabinet.

Copy forwarded to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, for information.

Two copies of the memorandum together with two copies of the summary from the Ministry of External Affairs, forwarded to the Secretary, Ministry of Finance (Deptt. of R & E), for information.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to the President/the Private Secretary to the Vice-President/the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister/the Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, for information.

ASG
(A.S. Gill)
Under Secretary to the Cabinet.

ARORA
35 copies.

Serial No. 5.

SECRET

No. 10/CF/56.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CABINET SECRETARIAT

New Delhi, the 27th January, 1956.

Subject:- Deputation of Sarvashree Shah Nawaz Khan, Suresh Chandra Bose and R.K. Mitra to Japan, Indo-China(Saigon), Malaya and Thailand to make investigation into the circumstances leading to the death of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose.

Reference attached summary dated the 16th January, 1956, from the Ministry of External Affairs on the above subject. The Cabinet has approved the proposal contained therein.

ASGmi

(A. S. Gill)
Under Secretary to the Cabinet.

To

The Ministry of External Affairs
(Shri T.N. Kaul)

JSP
27/1

Telegrams :—

" TRANSPORT "



D.O.NO. 11/5/56

CONFIDENTIAL

Serial No-6

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT.

New Delhi

Date the 6th Feby: 1956.

My dear Sukthankar,

I spoke to you the other day about the difficulties in the way of releasing R. K. Mitra who has just taken over as Chairman, Calcutta Port Commissioners, for joining the deputation to Tokyo in connection with the proposed enquiry into Netaji Subhas Bose's death. I have already mentioned these difficulties to the External Affairs Ministry. I do hope that the West Bengal Government would see their way to nominate some other officer in place of Mitra.

Yours sincerely,

N. M. Ayyar
(N. M. Ayyar)

Shri Y. N. Sukthankar, I.C.S.,
Cabinet Secretary,
Cabinet Secretariat,
New Delhi.

*I shall like to
mention this to
P.D. Kumar
Managing. Please
look up them.
6/2/56
P.S.*

CONFIDENTIAL.

Serial No. 7

115. PS-56.

My dear Ayyar,

Kindly refer to your D.O.11/S/56 dated 6th February, 1956, marked 'Confidential'. I have spoken to the Foreign Secretary, who informs me that there will be no objection to R.K. Mitra, now appointed as Chairman, Calcutta Port Commissioners, being replaced by another officer of the West Bengal Government, in the deputation proceeding to Tokyo in connection with the proposed enquiry into Netaji Subhas Bose's death. It is understood that that Government has already selected another officer to join the deputation. I have kept the Prime Minister informed, as the deputation in which Mitra was included, had already received the approval of the Cabinet.

Yours sincerely,

(Y.N. Sukthankar)

Shri N.M. Ayyar, ICS.,
Secretary,
Ministry of Transport,
New Delhi.

Dated, the 14th April, 1956.

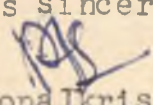
My dear Kaul,

Will you kindly refer to your Memorandum No.F.30(26)-FEA/55 dated the 9th April, 1956, regarding the deputation of a Committee of three persons to investigate into the circumstances leading to Sri Subhas Chandra Bose's death?

I am afraid it is not possible for us to submit this summary to the Cabinet in its present form. In January, this year the Cabinet approved your Ministry's proposals regarding the deputation of a Committee of three persons to Japan, Indo-China (Saigon), Malaya and Thailand to investigate into the circumstances leading to the death of Sri Subhas Chandra Bose. It now appears that this Committee is holding its sessions and examining witnesses in India. The approval of the Cabinet was for the deputation of this Committee abroad. It is not necessary to obtain Cabinet's approval for setting up a local committee of investigation or to the expenses incurred on its functioning in India. Approval of the Cabinet would be necessary only if there is a change in the composition of the delegation, programme of deputation abroad, or sizable increase in expenditure on that deputation. In this case the approval of the Cabinet will be necessary if the personal assistant to the Chairman of the Committee is to accompany him on his tour abroad. The Cabinet has also to be informed about the substitution of Shri R.K. Mitra, Home Secretary, West Bengal Government by Shri S.N. Maitra, as a member of the Committee.

Incidentally, I may also point out that the copies of the summary you have sent us are captioned 'Draft Summary to the Cabinet'. It should have been 'Summary for the Cabinet'. I am returning 34 copies of your note and request you to let us have a short self contained note for the Cabinet setting out clearly the points on which its approval is sought.

Yours sincerely,


(P.A. GopalKrishnan)

Shri T.N. Kaul, I.C.S.,
Joint Secretary,
Ministry of External Affairs,
New Delhi.

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Serial NO. 9
No. 30(26) FEA/55

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

New Delhi (3), the 25th April 1956

My dear Gopalakrishnan,

Please refer to your d.o. letter No. 10/CF/56 of April 14th regarding the deputation abroad of a Committee to investigate into the circumstances leading to the alleged death of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose.

I am forwarding herewith a revised note for the Cabinet as desired.

The Committee started its work in India from the 29th March, 1956, and after examining some witnesses from India and Pakistan, it will go abroad on the 26th April. The Committee's main enquiry is to be outside India but it was thought necessary to examine in India some of the witnesses, who are living in India and Pakistan. Approval of the Cabinet is sought to the change in the composition of the Committee and the sizable increase in the expenditure on its deputation.

Cabinet's approval to these subsequent changes was not asked for earlier as the time at our disposal was very short.

Yours sincerely,

(T. N. Kaul)

Shri P.A. Gopalakrishnan, ICS.,
Cabinet Secretariat,
NEW DELHI.

(A.S. Gill)
Under Secretary to the Cabinet.

Gaira
35 copies.

-13-
Serial No. 10
SECRET

No. 10/CF/56.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CABINET SECRETARIAT

New Delhi, the 30th April, 1956.

.....

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14-15
cor info
The undersigned is directed to circulate to Members of the Cabinet, for information, a copy of a summary from the Ministry of External Affairs regarding the changes in the composition of a Committee going to Japan, Indo-China, Thailand to investigate into the circumstances leading to the alleged death of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose.

The Prime Minister has been pleased to accord his approval to the Proposal contained in the summary.

A.S.G.
(A.S. Gill)
for Secretary to the Cabinet.

To

All Members of the Cabinet.

Copy with a copy of the enclosure forwarded to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, for information.

Two copies of the memorandum together with two copies of the enclosure forwarded to the Secretary, Ministry of Finance (Deptt. of R & E), for information.

Copy with a copy of the enclosure forwarded to the Foreign Secretary, for information.

Copy with a copy of the enclosure forwarded to the Secretary to the President/the Private Secretary to the Vice-President/the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister/the Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, for information.

A.S.G.
(A.S. Gill)
Under Secretary to the Cabinet.

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Government of India,
Ministry of External Affairs.

Cabinet Document No.

CD- 288 56

Copy No... 26.....

Summary for the Cabinet.

Subject:- Deputation to Japan, Indo-China
Thailand, of a Committee to make
investigation into the circum-
stances leading to the alleged
death of Shri Subhash Chandra
Bose.

Approval of the Cabinet to the note placed
below was conveyed in the Cabinet Secretariat Memorandum
No.10/CF/56 dated 27-1-1966 in connection with the
appointment of the Committee to investigate into the
circumstances leading to the alleged death of Shri
Subhash Chandra Bose.

2. Since then the following changes have taken
place:

(a) The services of Shri R.K. Mitra, Home
Secretary, West Bengal Government, could not be made
available for working on the Committee. In his place,
Shri S.N. Maitra, I.C.S., Chief Commissioner, Andamans,
has been appointed as a Member of the Committee.

(b) It was felt necessary that the Committee
should be provided with an Assistant-cum-Stenographer .
Shri R. Dayal, Personal Assistant to Shri Shah Nawaz
Khan, has been appointed to work with the Committee as a
Stenographer and Keeper of the Committee's records and
papers and accompany the Committee abroad.

(c) When the Cabinet had agreed to this
Ministry's proposal to the deputation abroad of the
Committee, the expenditure was shown to be rupees 18,000/-

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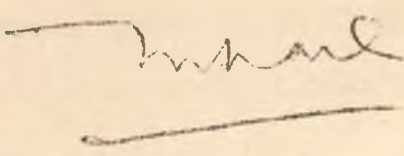
-15-
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Now it is expected to be about rupees 31,500/-/- The Ministry of Finance have agreed to this increased expenditure. The additional expenditure has been necessitated on the following items:-

- i) D.A. to Shri Shah Nawaz Khan Rs.700/-
@ Rs.20/- per day for five weeks.
(He was given a daily allowance of Rs.20/- a day while he was working previously as Chairman of the Railway Accidents Enquiry Committee. On this basis he has been sanctioned this allowance now.)
- ii) Cost of travelling and daily allowance witnesses in India and in foreign countries. Rs.6,000/-
- iii) Compensatory allowance to Shri Suresh Chandra Bose. Rs.1,050/-
at Rs.30/- per day(for five weeks)
(Being a non-official he was not in receipt of any pay or allowance so it was necessary to give him a compensatory allowance to enable him to meet miscellaneous items of cost while abroad.)
- iv) Air passage (Tourist Class) and D.A. to the Personel Assistant(ad-hoc) Rs. 4500/-
- v) Entertainment allowance to the Committee to enable them to return hospitality. Rs.1,000/-

Total:	Rs.13,250/-
Roughly	13,500/-

Approval of the Cabinet is required to the changes in composition of the Committee and to the increased expenditure as stated above. The Minister for External Affairs has approved the proposal and the Ministry of Finance have concurred.


(T.N. Kaul)
Joint Secretary.

-11-

Government of India,
Ministry of External Affairs.

Draft Summary of the Cabinet.

Subject: Deputation to Japan, Indo-China(Saigon), Malaya (Singapore and Thailand (Bangkok) of a Committee of three persons to make investigation into the circumstances leading to the death of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose.

The report that Shri Subhash Chandra Bose died as a result of an air crash near Taihoku (Formosa) on the 18th August, 1945 was not believed to be absolutely true by a section of the public. Shri S.A.Aiyer, formerly a Minister in the Azad Hind Government, visited Japan some time in May 1951 and verified the story of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose's death. He submitted a detailed report of his enquiry to the Prime Minister with photographs and some documents signed by some Japanese people.

In reply to a question in Parliament a resume of this report was placed on the Table of the House on the 5th March 1952. Government believe that this report of Shri S.A.Aiyer is a fairly convincing account and proof of Shri Bose's death.

However, a certain section of the people as well as a few Members of Parliament continue to express doubt about the truth of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose's death as well as of the genuineness of the ashes lying in the Renkoji temple in Tokyo. Questions on this subject continue to be asked in both Houses of the Parliament. Government, therefore, propose to appoint a Committee of three persons who will visit Tokyo and other places

P.T.G.

relevant to the investigation and institute an ^{alleged} enquiry into the circumstances of the death. The Committee will consist of Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, brother of the late Shri Subhash Chandra Bose, and Shri R.K. Mitra, Home Secretary, West Bengal Government. Shri Suresh Chandra Bose has agreed to serve on the Committee and the Chief Minister of West Bengal has agreed to lend the services of Shri R.K. Mitra. It is estimated that the Committee will require about 5 weeks to complete the enquiry. The expenditure is expected to be about Rs.18,000/-.

The Minister for External Affairs has approved the proposal. The Ministries of Finance and Home Affairs have also concurred. Approval of the Cabinet is now solicited.


(T.N. Kaul)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

Encl: nil.

Jolly.16.1/ ✓

Serial No. 11
SECRET

No. 10/CF/56.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CABINET SECRETARIAT

New Delhi, the 14th June, 1956.

X/P 19
Under sub-rule 1(a) of Rule III of the Rules of Procedure the undersigned is directed to circulate to Members of the Cabinet, for an expression of opinion, a copy of a note from the Ministry of External Affairs regarding the extension of the period of deputation of the Committee appointed to investigate into the alleged death of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose.

If no comments are received by 10 A.M. on Wednesday the 20th June, 1956, it will be assumed that Members of the Cabinet approve the proposal contained in the note.

ASG
(A.S. Gill)
for Secretary to the Cabinet.

To

All Members of the Cabinet.

Copy with a copy of the enclosure forwarded to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, for information.

Copy with a copy of the enclosure forwarded to the Secretary to the President/the Private Secretary to the Vice-President/the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister/the Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, for information.

ASG
(A.S. Gill)
Under Secretary to the Cabinet.

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465/56-19
No.D.2786-FEA/56.
Government of India,
Ministry of External Affairs.

Cabinet Document No.	
CD. 46.5	56
Copy No. 26	

New Delhi, the 9 th June, 1956.

NOTE FOR THE CABINET

Subject:- Deputation to Japan, Indo-China, Thailand of a Committee to make investigation into the alleged death of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose.

It was assumed that the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Enquiry Committee which started its function with effect from the 29th March 1956 would be able to complete its investigation in five weeks. A total amount of Rs.31,500/- has already been approved by the Cabinet to meet the extended expenditure. The Committee after having worked for sometime, consider that it will take a longer time than it was initially anticipated and expects to submit its report by the 30th June 1956, if it is not delayed due to unforeseen reasons. In view of this an extension of the life of the Committee till 30th June 1956 and the additional expenditure involved, as indicated below, has to be sanctioned:

1) D.A. to three members of the Committee for additional 10 days abroad.	Rs. 2,190/-
2) D.A. to P.A. to the Chairman for additional 10 days abroad.	Rs. 550/-
3) Extra D.A. @ Rs.20/- per day to Shri Shah Nawaz Khan for additional one month, viz. May, 1956.	Rs. 620/-
4) Compensatory allowance to Shri Suresh Chandra Bose for two months, viz. May and June, 1956.	Rs. 1,830/-
5) Other unknown charges.	Rs. 1,310/-
Total.-	Rs. 6,500/-

This will raise the total expenditure to Rs.38,000/-.

Approval of the Cabinet is, therefore, required (i) to the extension of the life of the Committee till 30th June 1956 and (ii) to the additional expenditure of Rs.6,500/- as stated above. The Deputy Minister for External Affairs has approved the proposal and the Ministry of Finance have concurred.

(Y.K. Puri)
Joint Secretary.

The Cabinet Secretariat,
New Delhi.

hatnagar*
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-20 -
Serial No. 12
SECRET

26
COPY NO. 34

No. 10/CF/56.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CABINET SECRETARIAT

New Delhi, the 20th June, 1956.

....

p18
With reference to this Secretariat memorandum of even number dated the 14th June, 1956, regarding the extension of the period of deputation of the Committee appointed to investigate into the alleged death of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose, the undersigned is directed to inform Members of the Cabinet that the Prime Minister has been pleased to accord his approval to the proposal contained in the note dated the 9th June, 1956, from the Ministry of External Affairs.

AS Gill
(A.S. Gill)
for Secretary to the Cabinet.

To

All members of the Cabinet.

...

Copy forwarded to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, for information.

...

Two copies of the memorandum together with two copies of the note from the Ministry of External Affairs, forwarded to the Secretary, Ministry of Finance (Deptt. of R & E), for information.

...

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to the President/the Private Secretary to the Vice-President/the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister/the Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, for information.

AS Gill
(A.S. Gill)
Under Secretary to the Cabinet.

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35 copies.

21 -

122

Serial No. 13.

SECRET

No. 10/CF/56.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CABINET SECRETARIAT

New Delhi, the 20th June, 1956.

Subject:- Extension of the period of deputation
of the Committee appointed to
investigate into the alleged death
of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose.

Reference attached note dated the 9th June,
1956, from the Ministry of External Affairs on the
above subject. The Cabinet has approved the proposal
contained therein.

A.S.G. 20/6

(A.S. Gill)
Under Secretary to the Cabinet

7c

To
The Ministry of External Affairs
(Shri Y.K. Puri).

Encl
cc
20/6

S. No. 14

SECRET

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 52/CM/56
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CABINET SECRETARIAT

New Delhi, the 8th September, 1956.

The following will constitute an additional item of the agenda for the meeting of the Cabinet to be held at 5 p.m. tomorrow, the 9th September, 1956, in the Cabinet Room, Rashtrapati Bhavan:-

Subject

✓ pp. 23-27
infra
Report of the Netaji Subhas
Chandra Bose Enquiry Committee
(Paper attached)

(Prime Minister)

S. Raghavan
(S. Raghavan)

for Secretary to the Cabinet.

To

All Members of the Cabinet.

Copy with a copy of the enclosure forwarded to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, for information.

Copy with a copy of the enclosure forwarded to the Secretary to the President/the Private Secretary to the Vice-President/the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister/the Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister.

S. Raghavan
(S. Raghavan)

for Under Secretary to the Cabinet.

Copy with a copy of the enclosure forwarded to the Foreign Secretary, for information.

S. Raghavan
(S. Raghavan)

for Under Secretary to the Cabinet.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Dated New Delhi the 6th Sept.1956.

MEMORANDUM.

Subject:- Report of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Enquiry Committee.

The undersigned is directed to forward for the information of the Cabinet 35 copies of the majority report of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Enquiry Committee.

2. The Committee was appointed by the Government of India in Notification No. F.30(26)FEA/55 dated the 5th April, 1956, with directions:

"To enquire into and to report to the Government of India on the circumstances concerning the departure of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose from Bangkok about the 16th August, 1945, his alleged death as a result of an aircraft accident, and subsequent developments connected therewith."

Placed with P.M.
W.D. & Circulation
W.D. Cabinet.
21/9/56

3. Its members, consisting of

- (i) Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport;
- (ii) Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, elder brother of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose; and
- (iii) Shri S.N. Maitra, I.C.S., formerly Chief Commissioner, Andamans and Nicobar;

M.H.
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W.S.(C)
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assembled in New Delhi early in April, 1956, and decided to meet and interrogate as many persons as possible with actual or supposed knowledge of the last days of the Indian Independence movement in the Far East and of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in particular. They also decided that it would be necessary to peruse books and articles about Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and to study the secret intelligence reports prepared immediately after the war.

4. Accordingly, the Committee examined ten witnesses

-24-
-2-

in New Delhi between the 4th and 17th April. They then proceeded to Calcutta, where they examined 14 witnesses. They also examined the following witnesses at different places:

Bangkok	..	4 witnesses
Saigon	..	2
Tourane	..	1
Tokyo	..	32
Calcutta (again)		1
New Delhi (")		3

making a total of 67 witnesses in all.

5. The Committee re-assembled in Delhi in the middle of June. The members compared and discussed the evidence of witnesses whom they had personally interviewed and took into consideration the evidence from other sources. The 3 members of the Committee then arrived at certain broad conclusions and unanimously agreed that the report should be written on the basis of these conclusions. These were summarised in a list entitled "Principal Points agreed to for draft Report - dated 30.6.56". This was signed by all the 3 members of the Committee.

6. The present report, however, is only signed by 2 members, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan and Shri Maitra. The third member, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, seems to have subsequently changed his mind and suddenly left New Delhi for Calcutta without any notice to the other two members. Thereafter he refused to come to New Delhi in spite of urgent requests from the Chairman or to collaborate with his colleagues. He did not even indicate any intention of submitting an independent Report or a note of dissent. There was therefore no alternative left to the two other members but to submit a report of their own to Government.

7. Briefly, the conclusions of the majority are as follows: About the spring of 1945 the defeat of the Axis Powers became likely, and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose began thinking of the future activities of himself on the one hand, and of the Indian Independence League and the Indian National Army on the other. As regards himself, he decided to leave South East Asia and to take refuge in Russia, whence, in due course, he could re-emerge and continue the struggle for India's freedom against the British. As regards the Indian Independence League and the Indian National Army, he appeared to be undecided and desired to consult with his allies, the Japanese, before imparting final instructions.

8. With a view to implementing these intentions he left Bangkok on the 17th August, 1945, for Saigon, whence he had been promised passages for himself and 6 companions by a Tokyo-bound Japanese military plane.

9. At Saigon, however, there was a serious disappointment: only two passages in an Air Force bomber were offered by the Japanese Military Command, which, as a consequence of Japan's surrender to the Allies on the 15th August, 1945, found itself short of air transport. After some discussion Netaji found himself obliged to accept the 2 passages offered, and with the approval of his companions selected Col. Habibur Rehman to accompany him. Netaji and Col. Rehman accordingly took off for Tokyo by the bomber about 5.00 p.m. on the 17th August, 1945.

10. Apart from Netaji and Col. Rehman the bomber included 6 Japanese Service Officers as passengers, and

a crew of 5 or 6 persons.

11. The bomber landed for the night at Tourane on the Indo-China coast at about 7.30 p.m., and took to the air again with the same inmates at 5.00 a.m. the next morning. The next brief stop was at Taihoku in Formosa in the early afternoon of 18th August, 1945. While taking off from Taihoku later in the afternoon, however, the propeller and the port side engine of the bomber which appears to have been defective even from the start, suddenly dropped out, with the result that the plane immediately crashed about 50 metres off the run-way and burst into flames. Suffering from severe burns Netaji was carried into the Taihoku Military Hospital, where after some hours he passed away.

12. Two days later, on the 20th, his body was cremated in the Taihoku Crematorium. His ashes were collected and temporarily kept in the Nishi (West) Honganji Temple in that city until the 7th September, 1945, when they were flown to Tokyo. There they have since been lying in the Renkoji Temple.

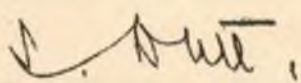
13. The members of the Committee also discussed and briefly recorded their views about the treasure taken with him by Netaji during his last trip. These were that while leaving Bangkok Netaji took with him, evidently for his future political activities, two leather suit cases filled with gold ornaments and jewellery. These were burnt in the plane crash at Taihoku. A portion of the contents were however salvaged by the Japanese Military authorities, and after many vicissitudes some or the whole of the salvaged portion has been brought to New Delhi and housed in the National Museum in the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

14. The majority report of the Committee is placed before the Cabinet for its information. If Shri Suresh Chandra Bose later submits a report or a Note of Dissent, it will be considered by the Ministry. Meanwhile, Prime Minister proposes to place the majority report before the Parliament during its current session.

15. The report recommends that Netaji's ashes, which have been in Tokyo for now 11 years, should be brought to India in a befitting manner and interred with a suitable monument over them.

In deciding this question regard has to be paid to the feelings of the members of his family in this matter. It would be most unfortunate if a controversy arose over what should be a sacred ceremony. If there is risk of such a controversy, it would be best to leave the question of bringing over the ashes to India for future consideration.

16. Prime Minister agrees with the views expressed in this note.


(S. DUTT)
Foreign Secretary.

Sri Y. N. Sukthankar, I.C.S.,
Secretary,
Cabinet Secretariat,
NEW DELHI.

Enclos:

SECRETIMMEDIATE.

No. 52/CM/56
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CABINET SECRETARIAT

New Delhi, the 11th September, 1956.

....

The Secretary to the Cabinet presents his compliments to the Minister of and has the honour to enclose a draft copy of the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on Sunday, the 9th September, 1956.

If no comments are received by 10 A.M. on Thursday, the 13th September, 1956, the draft will be submitted to the Prime Minister for approval.

ASG

(A.S. Gill)
for Secretary to the Cabinet.

To

All Members of the Cabinet (except the Ministers of Communications and Health).

....

Copy with a copy of the enclosures forwarded to the Ministers of Communications and Health, for information.

....

Copy with a copy of the enclosures forwarded to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, for information.

....

Copy with a copy of the enclosures forwarded to the Secretary to the President/the Private Secretary to the Vice-President/the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister/the Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister.

ASG

(A.S. Gill)
Under Secretary to the Cabinet.

P.T.O.

Advance copy of the draft minutes forwarded to:-

Deputy Minister of Production (Case No. 238/52/56).
Minister of Revenue & Civil Expenditure. I
Minister of Revenue & Defence (Case No. 239/52/56).
Expenditure. I
Deputy Minister of Finance. I
Secretary, Ministry of Production. (Case No. 238/52/56).
Secretary, Ministry of Finance.
(Department of E.A.). (Case No. 239/52/56).

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SECRET

COPY NO 26

MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON
SUNDAY, THE 9TH SEPTEMBER, 1956,
AT 5 P.M.

Case No. 236/52/56.

REPORT OF THE NETAJI
SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE
ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

P R E S E N T

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister.
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister of Education and
Natural Resources & Scientific Research.
Shri Govind Ballabh Pant, Minister of Home Affairs &
Heavy Industries.
Shri Gulzarilal Nanda, Minister of Planning and
Irrigation & Power.
Dr. Kailas Nath Katju, Minister of Defence.
Shri T.T. Krishnamachari, Minister of Finance and
Iron & Steel.
Shri C.C. Biswas, Minister of Law & Minority Affairs.
Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Minister of Railways &
Transport.
Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister of Works, Housing & Supply
and Commerce & Consumer Industries.
Shri K.C. Reddy, Minister of Production.
Shri Ajit Prasad Jain, Minister of Food & Agriculture.
Shri Khandubhai K. Desai, Minister of Labour.
Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, Minister Without Portfolio.

ALSO PRESENT

Shri V.T. Krishnamachari, Deputy Chairman, Planning
Commission.
Professor P.C. Mahalanobis, Honorary Statistical
Adviser to the Cabinet.

SECRETARIAT

Shri Y.N. Sukthankar.
Shri P.A. Gopalkrishnan.

...

The Cabinet approved the proposal contained in para 14
of the External Affairs Ministry's summary dated 6th September,
1956. It was also agreed that the question of bringing over
Netaji's ashes to India might be left for future consideration.

MEHTA
50 copies.

SECRETCOPY NO.

No. 52/CM/56.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CABINET SECRETARIAT

New Delhi, the 17th September, 1956.

✓
The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 9th September, 1956, relating to the cases noted below, and circulated with this Secretariat's memorandum No. 52/CM/56, dated the 11th September, 1956, have been approved by the Prime Minister subject to the amendment in case No. 239/52/56.

- ✓ Case No. 236/52/56 - Report of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Enquiry Committee.
- Case No. 237/52/56 - (1) P.M.'s visit to Saudi Arabia.
(2) Suez Negotiations.
- Case No. 238/52/56 - Coal Corporation.
- Case No. 239/52/56 - Recent trends in prices.
On page 3, for the words "submit its views" occurring in the second line, read "submit reports on them".

ASG

(A.S. Gill)
for Secretary to the Cabinet.

To

All Members of the Cabinet.

Copy forwarded to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, for information.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to the President/the Private Secretary to the Vice-President/the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister/the Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, for information.

ASG

(A.S. Gill)
Under Secretary to the Cabinet.

P.T.O.

Final approval communicated to the following in regard to the cases mentioned against each:-

Deputy Minister of Production. (Case No. 238/52/56).

Minister of Revenue & Civil Expenditure. ¶

Minister of Revenue & Defence Expenditure. ¶ (Case No. 239/52/56).

Deputy Minister of Finance. ¶

Copy of the final minutes relating to the cases shown against each forwarded to :-

Minister of Defence Organisation. ¶ (All cases)

Minister of Natural Resources ¶

Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs. ¶ (Case Nos. 236/52/56

Deputy Minister of External Affairs. ¶ and 237/52/56).

Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs. (Case No. 236/52/56).

Foreign Secretary ¶ (Case Nos. 236/52/56 & 237/52/56).

Commonwealth Secretary ¶ (Case No. 236/52/56).

Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs. (Case No. 236/52/56).

Secretary, Ministry of Production. ¶ (Case Nos. 238/52/56 &

Joint Secretary, Planning Commission ¶ 239/52/56).

Secretary, Ministry of Finance ¶

(Department of E.A.) ¶

Secretary, Ministry of Food & Agriculture. ¶

Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Consumer ¶

Industries. ¶

(Case No. 239/52/56).

Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries. ¶

Secretary, Ministry of Finance ¶

(Department of Expenditure). ¶

Secretary, Ministry of Finance ¶

(Department of Revenue). ¶

"RAJPUT"

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